



An Analysis of Rural Poverty Alleviation Programs and Challenge in Assam: A Micro Level Study of Margherita Block of Tinsukia District



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Abstract

The research was intended to describe the development of the rural people, the country cannot claim to be a developed country. Not only India, but every developing country of the world has also been trying to the reduction of poverty because of the poverty eradication is considered an integral to humanity's mission for their sustainable development. It is a concept of global dialog and vital for the attainment of international goals. The government of India, as well as states government, has launched some poverty eradication program for the development of rural peoples, but all these poverty alleviation programs are did not yield the desired result due to various shortcomings. Successful implementation of this program required an appropriate policy framework, adequate funds, and effective delivery mechanism. An effective and responsive district level field machinery with a high degree of commitment, motivation, professional competence, and above all integrity has been recognized as one of the pre-requisites for successful implementation of an anti-poverty strategy.

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1. Introduction

Abhiyan, S. S. (2017), rural poverty is a worldwide problem, it existing in both developing and developed countries of the world. In India, the majority of the population lives in rural areas and the alleviation of poverty is an important aim of the government. Due to the growth of population and inequality of income and increasing of the price level, the degree of the poverty level in India, as well as Assam, is increasing day by day. At the beginning of 20th century, about ninety percent of the population lived in the village and at the beginning of 21st century about seventy-two percent Indian still lives in the village. so alleviation of poverty has become an important objective of rural development policies and programs of India.

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Ahmed, A. (1987), the district rural development agency (DRDA) has traditionally been the principal organ at the district level to oversee the implementation of the different anti-poverty programmers. This was sponsored by central government and effect from 1st April 1999. In this present paper, an attempt is made in order to a theoretical focus of the poverty alleviation programs and its challenge in India and Bhaṭṭācāryya, H. (1998), with especially focusing on the scenario of Margherita Block of Tinsukia District of the state of Assam.

The objective of the study

The objectives of this present studies are:

- a) To highlight some poverty alleviation programmers launched by the govt. of India.
- b) To study the challenges and problems of the poverty alleviation programs
- c) The third objective of this present paper is to focus a short description of some poverty alleviation program such as IAY, MGnREA, etc

2. Research Methods

The article is mainly based on secondary Data's. The secondary data is mainly based on books, Govt. records, Journals, News Paper, Pamphlet, and Internet-related with the topic of the study.

The study area

The present article covered a micro level study, under the Margherita development block of Tinsukia district of the state of Assam. Under this development block, a number of majority of people live in rural villages. Communities under this development Block the are mainly *Moran, Adivasi, Nepali, Deori, Kachari, Singpho* etc. the major earning source of income is tea plantation. Though Tinsukia district falls under the industrial belt with coal belt at Margherita, green tea gardens covering almost whole district, one of the oldest oil refinery of Asia located at Digboi, recent BPL survey reveals that 41.31% of rural population is falling under below poverty line.

The district is a surrender by Arunachal Pradesh in the South-East, Dibrugarh dist, in the south-west and Dhemaji district in the north. The ancient name of Tinsukia was '*Bangmara*' it was the capital of Muttack kingdom. It was declared as the 23rd district of Assam on 1st October 1989, with three sub-division namely; Tinsukia, Sadiya, and M Margherita. Now, Margherita development block cover sixteen village Panchayat these are Bhithorpawoi, Borbil, Borgolai, Brahmajan, Anthem, Golai, Jagun, Ketetang, Ku mar party, Kumsai, Ledo, Ledo Colliery, Lekhapani, Makumpathar, Pawoi, and Samukjan.

3. Results and Analysis

Concept of Poverty

Buys, P. (2007), the term 'poverty' has no common acceptable definition, poverty is a complex phenomenon. Poverty is a state of deprivation. In general, poverty means lack of basic capacity of their daily needs, Participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and cloths, not having a school or clinic to go to, not having access to credit. Ghosh, M. (2012), IOT means insecurity, powerlessness, and exclusion of individuals, households, and communities. According to the World Bank, poverty marked deprivation in well-being and comprises many dimensions. Nayak, P., & Panda, B. (2016), it includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice and insufficient capacity.

Poverty alleviation programmed in India and Assam

Poverty alleviation programmed has been one of the major objective of the plan development indeed, it is a global issue, the eradication of poverty is considered as an integral part to humanity's quest for sustainable development. One

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of the major objectives of the planned economic development in India has been to removal poverty and improving the quality of life of the people. In India, at the beginning of the new millennium, the number of poor in the rural areas was 193.2 million. although the problems of rural poverty have been persisting in India since the beginning of planning the serious efforts for the alleviation of poverty was introduced only in the recent years. The poverty alleviation programme was accepted as one of the major objectives planning since the fifth plan. It was only during the seventies the programs like Small Farmer's Development Agency(SFDA), marginal farmers and Agricultural Laborers Development Agency(MFAL), Drought Prone Areas Programmed (DPAP), Food For Work Programmed (FWP), were introduced for benefiting the rural poor. Later on, The Integrated Rural Development Programmed (IRDP) Was Introduced In 1978-79. In order to Provide Wage Employments to Rural poor, The National Employment Programmed (NREPO) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programmed (RLEGP) were introduced in Assam along with other states during the sixth plan. Later on, first April 1989, NREP and RLEGP were merged into a single wage employment programme under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). IRDP is also being implemented by the state government since 1980 as a major instrument of its strategy to alleviate rural poverty. The objective of this program is to assist poor families in developing skills and inputs to overcome their poverty. Other programme like TRYSEM was introduced in August 1979, in 1993-94, two new programs, namely the Employment Assurance Schemes (EAS) and the Prime Ministers Rozgar Yojana (PRMY) were introduced in Assam along with other states. In 1995-96, The Prime Minister's integrated urban poverty eradication programme (PMIUEP) with an objective of effective achievement of social sector goal, community empowerment, and shelter and skill up gradation as a multipronged strategy was started.

In Assam, 87 percent of the total population lives in rural areas of the state and most of them are found poverty ridden and economically backward. The state government has been giving special thrust for abolishing on rural poverty as well as for up-liftment of the economic condition of the people in rural areas. To achieve the objectives, the state government has been implementing various poverty alleviation programs undertaken by the government of India. The Director of the panchayat and rural development, Assam has been upgraded to the commissioner of Panchayat and rural development in 2009. The department has two wings, 'Panchayat' and 'rural development' wings. Both the wings have been implementing various state and centrally sponsored programs through the network of 27 District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), 21 Zilla parishad, and 219 community development blocks. There is no Panchayat system in the six schedule areas of Assam.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been implemented since February 2006 in the seven districts of Assam as the first phase district. During the year 2008-09, all twenty-seven districts of Assam were covered under this programme. The main objective of this programme is to provide 100 days employment to the job card holders in a financial year. Under this development block, a number of job card holders become an employee with this scheme and both the men and women can easily participate in their daily work without hesitation. But some shortcoming has been arising due to not prepared of District perspective plan, Labour budget and Short provision of employment and nonpayment of unemployment allowances etc

Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) aims at providing dwelling units free of cost to the poor families of the Schedule Castes (S/Cs), Schedule Tribes (S/Ts), free bonded laborers and also non SC/ST persons living below poverty line (BPL) in the rural areas. The scheme is funded on the cost-sharing basis of 75:25 between the Central and the State since 1992-2000, where 80 percent of allocation has been earmarked for new construction and 20 percent for up gradation of unserviceable kutcha houses. The scale of assistance for construction/up gradation varied from time to time and also between hilly and plain areas. Under the sixteen Panchayat of Margherita developments block the IAY scheme began at the same of the state launch but due to lack of not plan of the annual action, not conferred on women ownership of IAY, not the construction of sanitary latrine and smokeless *chullahs* and without involving beneficiaries.

Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY):

The single self-employment program of Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, launched with effect from 1st April 1999 has been conceived in view the strengths and weaknesses of the earlier schemes of integrated rural development program (IRDP) and allied program along with million wells scheme(MWS). The objective of restructuring was to make the program more effective in providing sustainable incomes through microenterprise. SGSY is conceived as a holistic program of microenterprises covering all aspects of self-employment viz, an organization of the rural poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their capacity building, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure build-up, technology, credit, and marketing. Swarnajayanti gram *swarozgar* Yojana, under this schema DRDA Tinsukia has achieved success in creation of awareness among the BPL farmers for the organization of self-help group for adoption of different

activities like- tea plantation, fishery, ginger cultivation, mechanized farming, sericulture, handicraft, horticulture, piggyery etc. presently more than 300 Nos of SHG formed under the Margherita block of Tinsukia district.

4. Conclusion

Without the development of the rural people, the country cannot claim to be a developed country. Not only India, but every developing country of the world has also been trying to the reduction of poverty because of the poverty eradication is considered an integral to humanity's mission for their sustainable development. It is a concept of global dialog and vital for the attainment of international goals. The government of India, as well as states government, has launched some poverty eradication program for the development of rural peoples, but all these poverty alleviation programs are did not yield the desired result due to various shortcomings. Successful implementation of this program required an appropriate policy framework, adequate funds, and effective delivery mechanism. An effective and responsive district level field machinery with a high degree of commitment, motivation, professional competence, and above all integrity has been recognized as one of the pre-requisites for successful implementation of an anti-poverty strategy. For better implementation of this program, it needs to play an important role of the Panchayati Raj institution, the non-governmental organization, as well as active participation of the peoples. Generally the rural poor are unawareness' about the government schemes. So it needs to the active participation of the voluntary organization for monitoring of the various schemes of the government.

Conflict of interest statement and funding sources

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Statement of authorship

The author(s) have a responsibility for the conception and design of the study. The author(s) have approved the final article.

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